



## Mary Wright

June 28, 1950 - April 24, 2024

Mary Ann Wright, age 73, of Kearney died after a difficult struggle with cancer on Wednesday, April 24, 2024 at Mother Hull Home in Kearney, NE. Visitation will be from 9:15-10:20 AM on Thursday, May 2 with the funeral service following at 10:30 AM at First Lutheran Church in Kearney, NE with Pastors Rick and Michelle Carlson officiating. Burial will be at Kearney Cemetery following the funeral service. Lunch will be served at the church after the burial service.

Mary was born June 28, 1950 in Lincoln, Nebraska to Charles & Norma Dow. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband Frank Wright, brothers-in-law Tom, Max, and Bob Wright, and son-in-law Lars Larson. Mary was a graduate of Lincoln Southeast High School and the University of Nebraska Kearney.

Upon graduation from college, Mary taught for two years at Bryant Elementary School in Kearney. She then began working in the kitchen at the Youth Rehabilitation & Treatment Center in Kearney. Before long she was in charge of the kitchen and worked in that position for more than thirty years. Mary worked second jobs for most of her work life. Cabela's call center, Valentino's and Ken's Pizza were among those extra jobs.

Mary met Frank in early 2004 when he had a hip replacement and was

recuperating at his sister Judy's home a half block from Mary's house. Mary brought Cabela catalogs and other magazines to Frank for him to read and before long they fell in love. Frank and Mary were married at First Lutheran Church in 2005.

Mary loved fishing with Frank. They enjoyed taking friends and family with them in their boat. Their favorite lakes were Harlan County, McConaughy, Davis Creek, Calamus, and Sherman. They also enjoyed fishing in Minnesota with Frank's brother, Max. Mary enjoyed watching the Huskers play football, baseball, and especially volleyball. Mary's happy place was working in her garden and raspberry patch. She had to buy extra shelves and another freezer to keep everything she had canned and frozen! Many neighbors benefited from her love of gardening.

Mary was a faithful member of First Lutheran Church in Kearney. She looked forward to visiting her church friends every Sunday. Mary served on many church committees, but enjoyed taking care of the flowers and was a mainstay helping to prepare communion. She delivered meals on wheels and was a long-time volunteer at the Kearney Area Animal Shelter. She joined the Golden K Kiwanis club with Frank and enjoyed the fellowship she found there. She and Frank were chosen Kiwanians of the year in 2015.

Mary is survived by her brothers Dave & Tom Dow, daughter Krissy Larson, son Brian Tatum (Betty), granddaughters Jordan & Mira Larson, Hannah, Kayla, & Emily Tatum, sisters-in-laws Betty & Shirley Wright, brother & sister-in-law Tom & Judy Shield, nieces Heather Hoffman, Dawn Ammons, Lisa Culp, & Heather Wright, nephews Jeff Shield, Chris, Chad, & Max Wright, and Glen Tatum.

Memorials are suggested to the First Lutheran Church or the Kearney Area Animal Shelter. Condolences may be shared online at [www.osrfh.com](http://www.osrfh.com).

Services are entrusted to O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral and  
Cremation Services.

# Cemetery Details

## Kearney Cemetery

4400 Avenue I  
Kearney, NE 68847  
(308) 233-3244

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY 2. 9:15 AM - 10:20 AM (CT)

First Lutheran Church  
3315 Ave G  
Kearney, NE 68847

## Funeral Service

MAY 2. 10:30 AM (CT)

First Lutheran Church  
3315 Ave G  
Kearney, NE 68847

# Tribute Wall

BR

“ Sorry we are posting about Mary so late - as we just learned of her passing this evening.  
Mary was a sweet and caring neighbor and made friends with my 7 year old (at the time they met now he's almost 9). We would always find her working away In her garden early In the morning. She would always greet us with a friendly good morning and tell my son to stop and she'd get him some raspberries from her garden on the way home . She told him the best way to eat them is frozen and over vanilla ice cream (this became one of his favorite treats). He would draw her pictures and leave in her mail box and she would leave him notes and raspberries in ours ;). She was a very special person and she will be missed by anyone who knew her and were lucky enough to call her a friend!!!

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**Brandi Ransdell** - May 18, 2024 at 10:21 PM

SE

“ Steven and Charles Echter purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Mary Wright.



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**Steven and Charles Echter** - May 01, 2024 at 12:40 AM

SE

“ Steven and Charles Echter planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Wright.

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**Steven and Charles Echter** - May 01, 2024 at 12:40 AM

CH

“ Chris, Kate, Chad, Kathi, Heather. purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Mary Wright.



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Chris, Kate, Chad, Kathi, Heather. - April 30, 2024 at 05:03 PM

CH

“ Chris, Kate, Chad, Kathi, Heather. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Wright.

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Chris, Kate, Chad, Kathi, Heather. - April 30, 2024 at 05:03 PM

BW

“ Betty W. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Wright.

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Betty W. - April 30, 2024 at 04:30 PM

JC

“ I didn't know Mary but it sounds like from her description she was a very generous and giving person and had a big and positive impact on her community. You can tell from her smile that she truly enjoyed life. I hope you have a wonderful gathering and sharing of all the Mary Momories that will help her live on. Blessings to Mary's friends and family, and to brother David and family.

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Joanne Ferguson Cavanaugh - April 30, 2024 at 11:19 AM

BH

“ I worked with Mary for 30 years ,we did not always see eye to eye but we did work together for a long time and did have some good memories of days gone by ,I was sad to hear about her passing

BRETT HANSEN - April 30, 2024 at 12:42 AM

BH

“ Brett Hansen purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Mary Wright.



Brett Hansen - April 30, 2024 at 12:21 AM

BH

“ Brett Hansen planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Wright.

Brett Hansen - April 30, 2024 at 12:21 AM

BW

“ Betty Wright lit a candle in memory of Mary Wright



Betty Wright - April 29, 2024 at 11:08 PM

KL

“ To my beautiful, hard-working, self-sacrificing, self-sufficient, dedicated, determined, honest, loyal, nature-loving, God-following mom, may you rest in peace with your husband for eternal life. May you know the positive impact you’ve imprinted on so many hearts. Thank you for leading by example. I love you! Until we meet again, please watch over us and give Lars Larson the biggest hug from us all. ❤️❤️❤️❤️

Krissy Larson - April 29, 2024 at 08:59 AM

DT

“ David and Tom purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Mary Wright.



David and Tom - April 29, 2024 at 08:30 AM

DF

“ Darleen Farwell lit a candle in memory of Mary Wright



Darleen M Farwell - April 28, 2024 at 03:30 PM

TO

“ *Mary was a tireless worker/supervisor for YRTC youth and staff. She led staff to provide thousands of meals. The dining facility was organized and a pleasant environment. I was appreciative of her leadership. In retirement I saw her often at Goo Samaritan wellness working out with her husband. She was enjoying her life. May her memory be eternal.*

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**Tim O'Dea** - April 27, 2024 at 11:53 AM

DM

“ *To Brian and Krissy: I have many fond memories of your mom. All the Girl Scout meetings we planned! The hours we spent talking! She was a great comfort to me on many occasions. Please know you are both in my thoughts and prayers. Doris McMullen*

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**Doris McMullen** - April 26, 2024 at 01:26 PM